

APPENDIX A —

**LISTING OF COMMON VA-RELATED
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS**

I. GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS

A & A	Aid and attendance
AAO	Assistant Adjudication Officer (now AVSCM)
ABO	Accelerated Benefit Option (for terminally ill SGLI and VGLI policy holders)
ACAP	Annual clothing allowance payment
ACDUTRA (also ADT)	Active duty for training (Reserve duty)
AD	Active duty
AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
AFR	Air Force Regulation
AGG	Aggravated in or by service
AIRS	Appellate Index Retrieval System
AMC	Appeals Management Center
AO	Adjudication Officer (now VSCM); <i>or</i> Agent Orange
AOCAP	Agent Orange Class Assistance Program
AOJ	Agency of Original Jurisdiction
APA	Administrative Procedures Act (5 U.S. Code 553(a))
AR	Army Regulation
AS	Active (air, military or naval) service
AVSCM	Assistant Veterans' Service Center Manager
AWOL	Absence without official leave; <i>or</i> Absent without official leave
BCMR	Board for Correction of Military Records
BCNR	Board for Correction of Naval Records
BVA	Board of Veterans' Appeals

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

CAVC	U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims
CBD	Chief Benefits Director (now Undersecretary for Veterans' Benefits)
C & C	Confirmed and continued rating decision
C & P	Compensation and Pension
CD	Clemency discharge
CFI	Claim for increase
C-file	Claims file
C.F.R. (also CFR)	Code of Federal Regulations
CHAMPUS	Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (now TRICARE)
CHAMPVA	Civilian Health and Medical Program, VA
CMD	Chief Medical Director (now Undersecretary for Veterans' Health)
COG	Convenience of the Government
COLA	Cost-of-living adjustment
COMP	Compensation; <i>or</i> Compensable (10% or more)
CRDP	Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay
CRSC	Combat-Related Special Compensation
CTA	Centralized Transcription Activity
CURR	U.S. Armed Services Center for Unit Records Research (now JSRRC)
CVA (also COVA)	U.S. Court of Veterans' Appeals (now CAVC)
CVSO	County Veterans Service Officer
CWT	Compensated Work Therapy
DC	Diagnostic code; <i>or</i> District Counsel (chief legal authority in a VARO)
DD	Dishonorable discharge
DEA	Dependents' and Survivors' Educational Assistance (38 U.S. Code, Chapter 35)
DIC	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
DNA	Defense Nuclear Agency (now DTRA)
DNEPTE	Did not exist prior to enlistment
DNEPTS	Did not exist prior to service

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

DoD	Department of Defense
DRB	Discharge Review Board
DRO	Decision Review Officer
DSM-IV	<i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (rev., 4th ed.), American Psychiatric Association</i>
DTRA	Defense Threat Reduction Agency (<i>previously called</i> Defense Nuclear Agency)
DVA	Department of Veterans Affairs (either State or U.S.)
DVSA	Domestic Volunteer Service Act
EAD	Extended active duty (Reserves)
EAJA	Equal Access to Justice Act
EOD	Entry onto (active) duty
EPC	End product control
EPTE	Existed prior to enlistment
EPTS	Existed prior to service
ESG	Environmental Support Group (now JSRRC)
ETS	Expiration of term of service
EVR	Eligibility Verification Report
FGP	Foster Grandparent Program
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FR Index	<i>Federal Register Index</i>
FSGLI	Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
FTCA	Federal Tort Claims Act
GAO	Government Accountability Office (<i>previously called</i> General Accounting Office)
GC	General Counsel
GPO	Government Printing Office
GW	Gulf War Era (period of service—see 38 CFR § 3.2(i)) <i>see also</i> PGW

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

HB	Housebound
HISA	Home Improvement and Structural Alteration
HO	Hearing Officer
HON	Honorable discharge
IDT	Inactive duty training (Reserve duty)
ILOD	In line of duty
IME	Independent medical expert
IMO	Independent medical opinion
INC	Incurred in service
IOM	Institutes of Medicine (part of National Academy of Sciences)
IR (see also RI)	Increased rating
IT	Incentive therapy
IU	Individual unemployability (<i>see also</i> TDIU)
IVAP	Income for VA purposes
JAG	Judge Advocate General
JSRRC	U.S. Army and Joint Services Records Research Center (<i>previously called</i> ESG, CURR)
KC	Korean Conflict (period of service—see 38 CFR § 3.2(e))
KIA	Killed in action
LG	(VA) Loan Guaranty
LIHEAP	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
LOD	Line of duty
LOU	Loss of use
LSA	<i>List of Sections Affected (C.F.R.)</i>
MAPR	Maximum annual pension rate
MCUA	Marine Corps University Archives

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

MGIB	Montgomery GI Bill, <i>also called All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program</i> (38 U.S. Code, Chapter 30)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NCA	National Cemetery Administration
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NILOD	Not in line of duty
NOA	Notice of Appeal
NOD	Notice of Disagreement; <i>or</i> Notice of Death
NPRC	National Personnel Records Center (St. Louis)
NSLI	National Service Life Insurance
NSO	National Service Officer
NSC	Nonservice-connected; <i>or</i> Not service-connected
NSCD	Nonservice-connected disability
NVLSP	National Veterans Legal Services Project
OGC	Office of General Counsel (VA)
OIG	Office of Inspector General (VA)
OMPF	Official military personnel file
OPC	Outpatient clinic
Op. G.C.	Opinion of the General Counsel
OPT	Outpatient treatment
OPTR	Outpatient treatment records
OTHC	Other than honorable conditions (Discharge)
PEN.	Pension
PIF	Pending issue file
PGW	Persian Gulf War (period of service—see 38 CFR § 3.2(i)) <i>see also</i> GW

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

PL (also P.L.)	Public Law
PMC	Pension Maintenance Center
POA	Power of attorney
POW	Prisoner of war
PRES	Presumption; <i>or</i> Presumptively SC (disability)
PT	Permanent total (disability)
P & T	Permanent and Total (disability)
PTE	Peacetime (period of service—any period <i>not</i> designated as a “period of war” under 38 CFR § 3.2)
RAD	Release from active duty
RECA	Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990
RE code	Reenlistment code
REPS	Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors
RH-	Service-Disabled Veterans’ Insurance policy number prefix
RI (see also IR)	Rating increase
RIF	Reduction in force
RPC	(VA) Records Processing Center (St. Louis)
RSFPP	Retired Services Family Protection Plan
RSVP	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
RVSR	Veterans’ Service Representative, Rating
SAH	Specially Adapted Housing
SAW	Spanish-American War (period of service— see 38 CFR § 3.2(b))
SBP	Survivor Benefit Plan
SBP-MIW	Survivor Benefit Plan—Minimum Income Widow
SC	Service-connected
SCD	Service-connected disability
S-DVI	Service-Disabled Veteran’s Insurance
SDN	Separation Designator Number

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

SDRP	Special Discharge Review Program
SF	Standard Form
SGLI	Servicemember's Group Life Insurance
SHA	Special Home Adaptation grant
SIRS	Special Issue Rating System
SMC	Special monthly compensation
SMIB	Supplementary medical insurance benefit
SMP	Special monthly pension
SMR	Service medical record
SOC	Statement of the Case
SPCM	Special court-martial
SPD	Separation Program designator
SPN	Separation Program number
SRD	<i>Schedule for Rating Disabilities</i> (38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4)
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSOC	Supplemental Statement of the Case
TDIU	Total disability due to individual unemployability
TDRL	Temporary Disability Retired List (uniformed services)
TIN	Transaction Identification Number
TPQ	Third-party query
TSGLI	Traumatic Injury Protection, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice
UD	Undesirable discharge
UHC	Under honorable conditions (General Discharge)
U.S.C. (also USC)	United States Code

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

U.S.C.A. (also USCA)	United States Code, Annotated
USCCAN	United States Code Congressional and Administrative News.
USGLI	United States Government Life Insurance
UYA	University Year for ACTION
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (also, old Veterans Administration)
VACO	VA Central Office
VACOLS	Veterans Appeals Control and Locator System
VADEX	VA <i>Index</i>
VAF	VA Form
VAMC	VA Medical Center
VAOPC	VA Outpatient Clinic
VAOPGCPREC	VA General Counsel Precedent Opinion
VAR	VA Regulation
VARO	VA Regional Office
VBA	Veterans Benefits Administration
VCAA	Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000
VE	Vietnam Era (period of service—see 38 CFR § 3.2(f))
VEAP	Veterans Education Assistance Program (38 U.S. Code, Chapter 32)
VGLI	Veterans' Group Life Insurance
VHA	Veterans Health Administration
VISTA	Volunteers in Service to America
VJRA	Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988
VMLI	Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance
VR&E	Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (38 U.S. Code, Chapter 31)
VRI	Veterans' Reopened Insurance
VSC	Veterans Service Center
VSCM	Veterans Service Center Manager

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

VSLI	Veterans' Special Life Insurance
VSR	Veterans Service Representative
VSO	Veterans' Service Organization <i>or</i> Veterans' Service Officer
WIA	Wounded in action
WW I	World War One (period of service—see 38 CFR § 3.2(c))
WW II	World War Two (period of service—see 38 CFR § 3.2(d))

II. MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The purpose of this portion of the appendix is to assist with the interpretation of the abbreviations and symbols most commonly appearing in hospital, clinical, examination, and outpatient treatment reports. The following listing of abbreviations and symbols is for use in the interpretation of medical reports and rating decisions. It is not intended to be either an exhaustive listing or to be a glossary of medical terminology.

A. ABBREVIATIONS

ABG	Arterial blood gases
AC	<i>Ante cibum</i> —before meals; <i>or</i> Acromioclavicular (shoulder joint)
AD	<i>Auris dexter</i> —right ear
AE	Above elbow
AEA	Above elbow amputation
AFB	Acid fast bacillus
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AK	Above knee
AKA	Above knee amputation
ANT	Anterior
AMI	Acute myocardial infarction; <i>or</i> Anterior myocardial infarction
AODM	Adult-onset diabetes mellitus (a.k.a. Type 2 diabetes)
AP	Angina pectoris; <i>or</i> Anteroposterior
A & P	Auscultation and percussion; <i>or</i> Anterior and posterior
AS	<i>Auris sinister</i> —left ear; <i>or</i> Arteriosclerosis (atherosclerosis)

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

ASA	Acetylsalicylic Acid (Aspirin)
ASCVD	Arteriosclerotic (atherosclerotic) cardiovascular disease
ASHD	Arteriosclerotic (atherosclerotic) heart disease
ASO	Arteriosclerosis Obliterans (<i>see also</i> PVD, ASPVD)
ASPVD	Arteriosclerotic (atherosclerotic) peripheral vascular disease
AU	<i>Auris unitas</i> —both ears
BB	Beriberi (also beri beri)
BBB	Bundle branch block (EKG finding)
b.i.d.	Two times per day
BIL	Bilateral
BK	Below knee
BKA	Below knee amputation
BLE	Both lower extremities
BMR	Basal metabolic rate
BP	Blood pressure
BS	Bowel sounds
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
BUE	Both upper extremities
C	Cervical; <i>or</i> Celsius
CA	Carcinoma
CABG	Coronary artery bypass graft
CAD	Coronary artery disease
CBC	Complete blood count
CBS	Chronic brain syndrome (dementia)
CC	Chief complaint
CHF	Congestive heart failure
cm.	Centimeter
CNS	Central nervous system

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

C/O	Complains of
COLD	Chronic obstructive lung disease
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
CT scan	Computed tomography
CAT scan	Computed axial tomography
CVA	Cerebral vascular accident (stroke); <i>or</i> Costovertebral angle
DAH	Disordered action of the heart (neurocirculatory asthenia)
D/C	Discontinue; <i>or</i> (Hospital) discharge
D&C	Dilation and curettage
DIP	Distal interphalangeal (joint)
DJD	Degenerative joint disease
DNIF	Duty not involving flying
DOE	Dyspnea on exertion
DTR	Deep tendon reflex
DTs	Delirium tremens
ECG (also EKG)	Electrocardiogram
EEG	Electroencephalogram
EENT	Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat
EMG	Electromyogram
ENG	Electronystagmogram
ENT	Ears, Nose and Throat
EST	Electroshock therapy
FANA	Fluorescent antinuclear antibody (blood test)
FB	Foreign body
FBS	Fasting blood sugar
FEV ₁	Forced expiratory volume in one minute

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

FH	Family history
FROM	Full range of motion
FSH	Follicle stimulating hormone
FU	Follow-up
FUO	Fever of undetermined/unknown origin
FVC	Forced vital capacity
FWB	Full weight bearing
FX	Fracture
GI	Gastrointestinal
GSW	Gunshot wound
GT	<i>Gutta</i> —drops
GTT	Glucose tolerance test
GU	Genitourinary
HBP	High blood pressure (hypertension)
HbS	Sickle cell hemoglobin
HcT	Hematocrit
HCVD	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease
Hgb	Hemoglobin
HNP	Herniated nucleus pulposus
HTN (also HPN)	Hypertension
HS	<i>Hora somni</i> —at hour of sleep (bedtime)
Hx	History
Hz	Hertz (cycles per second)
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IHD	Ischemic heart disease
IHSS	Idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis
IM	Intramuscular; <i>or</i> Infectious mononucleosis
IMP	Impression; <i>or</i> Improved

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

INF	Inferior; <i>or</i> Infusion
INH	Isoniazid (anti-tuberculosis drug)
IOL	Intraocular lens
IOP	Intraocular pressure
IPPB	Intermittent positive pressure breathing
IV	Intravenous
IVD	Intervertebral disc
IVP	Intravenous pyelogram
JVD	Jugular venous distention
K	Potassium
KJ	Knee jerk (tendon reflex)
KUB	Kidneys, ureters, bladder
L	Lumbar
LAD	Left anterior descending (coronary artery); <i>or</i> Left axis deviation (EKG)
LAT	Lateral
LBP	Low back pain
LCM	Left costal margin
LE	Lupus erythematosus
LFT	Liver function test
LKS	Liver, kidneys, spleen
LLC	Long leg cast
LLE	Left lower extremity
LLL	Left lower lobe (of lung)
LLQ	Left lower quadrant
LOM	Limitation of motion
LS	Lumbosacral
LUE	Left upper extremity
LUL	Left upper lobe (of lung)

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

LUQ	Left upper quadrant
LVH	Left ventricular hypertrophy
MCL	Midclavicular line; <i>or</i> Medial collateral ligament
MCP	Metacarpophalangeal (knuckle joint)
MED	Median
MFB	Metallic foreign body
MG	Muscle group
MHC	Mental Hygiene Clinic
MI	Myocardial infarction
mm.	Millimeter
MS	Multiple sclerosis; <i>or</i> Morphine sulfate (narcotic pain-killer)
MSL	Mid-sternal line
MTP	Metatarsophalangeal (toe joint)
NAD	No acute distress; <i>or</i> No abnormality detected
NCD	Not considered disabling
NL	Normal
NPN	Nonprotein nitrogen
NSA	No significant abnormality
N & V	Nausea and vomiting
NWB	Nonweight-bearing
OBS	Organic brain syndrome (dementia)
OD	<i>Oculus dexter</i> —right eye
O & E	Observation and evaluation (hospital inpatient)
OOP	Out of prosthesis
OPT	Outpatient treatment
ORIF	Open (surgical) reduction and internal fixation
OS	<i>Oculus sinister</i> —left eye
OTC	Over-the-counter

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

OU	<i>Oculus unitas</i> —both eyes
PC	<i>Post cibum</i> —after meals
PCO ₂	Carbon dioxide pressure (blood gas)
PH	Past history
PI	Present illness; <i>or</i> Preinduction (exam); <i>or</i> Pulmonary incompetence
PID	Pelvic inflammatory disease
PIP	Proximal interphalangeal (finger or toe joint)
PMD	Private medical doctor
PMH	Past medical history
PMI	Point of maximal impulse
PND	Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
PO	Postoperative; <i>or Per os</i> —by mouth (orally)
PO ₂	Oxygen pressure (blood gas)
PPD	Purified protein derivative (TB Test); <i>or</i> Packs per day (cigarette smoking history)
PR	Partial remission; <i>or</i> Presbyopia; <i>or</i> pulse rate; <i>or</i> <i>Per</i> rectum (rectally)
PRN	As needed
PT	Physical therapy; <i>or</i> Prothrombin time
PTA	Prior to admission
PTB	Patellar tendon bearing (prosthesis)
PUD	Peptic ulcer disease
PV	Peripheral vascular
PVD	Peripheral vascular disease
PVC	Premature ventricular contraction
PWB	Partial weight bearing
q.	Each; <i>or</i> every
qd	Daily
q.i.d.	Four times per day

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
RBC	Red blood cell (count)
RCA	Right coronary artery
RCM	Right costal margin
RF	Rheumatoid factor; <i>or</i> Rheumatic fever
RFB	Retained foreign body
RH	Rhesus factor (blood type)
RHD	Rheumatic heart disease
RLE	Right lower extremity
RLL	Right lower lobe (of lung)
RLQ	Right lower quadrant
RML	Right middle lobe (of lung)
R/O	Rule out
ROM	Range of motion
ROS	Review of symptoms
RRR	Regular rate and rhythm (of heart)
RSR	Regular sounds and rhythm (of heart)
RTC	Return to clinic
RTW	Return to work
RUE	Right upper extremity
RUL	Right upper lobe (of lung)
RUQ	Right upper quadrant
RVH	Right ventricular hypertrophy
Rx	Treatment; <i>or</i> Prescription
S	Sacral
S ₁ , S ₂ , S ₃ , S ₄	Systolic heart sounds
SAP	Substance Abuse Program
SFW	Shell fragment wound
SLC	Short leg cast
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus; <i>or</i> Slit lamp examination

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

SLR	Straight leg raising
SLWC	Short leg walking cast
SMRs	Service medical records
SNHL	Sensorineural hearing loss
SOAP	Subjective (complaints); Objective (findings); Assessment; Plan
SOB	Shortness of breath
S/P	Status post
S/PO	Status postoperative
SRT	Speech reception threshold
STS	Serologic test for syphilis; <i>or</i> Soft tissue sarcoma
SX	Signs; <i>or</i> Symptoms
T	Thoracic; <i>or</i> Tumor; <i>or</i> Time
TB (also TBC)	Tuberculosis
TIA	Transient ischemic attack
t.i.d.	Three times per day
TM	Tympanic membrane; <i>or</i> Temporomandibular
TMJ	Temporomandibular joint
TPR	Temperature; pulse; respiration (rates)
TURB	Transurethral resection of the (urinary) bladder
TURP	Transurethral resection of the prostate
UCD (also UCHD)	Usual childhood diseases
URI	Upper respiratory infection
UTI	Urinary tract infection
VC	Vital capacity
VD	Venereal disease
VDRL	Venereal Disease Research Laboratories (blood test for syphilis)
VIS	Visual Impairment Services
VIST	Visual Impairment Services Team

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

VSULA	Vaccination scar upper left arm
WBC	White blood cell (count)
WD	Well developed
WDWN	Well developed, well nourished
WH	Well healed
WHNT	Well healed, not tender
WFE	Williams Flexion Exercises
WJ	Wrist jerk (tendon reflex)
WN	Well nourished
WNL	Within normal limits

B. MEDICAL SYMBOLS

\bar{c}	With
\bar{s}	Without
(M)	Murmur
(R)	Right
(L)	Left
\bar{a}	Before
\bar{p}	After or Post
\pm	Not Definite
\downarrow	Decrease or depression
\uparrow	Increase or elevation
\emptyset	Normal or negative
$>$	Greater Than
$<$	Less Than
Δ	Change

Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols



Male



Female

/

Per

X

Times



One



Two



Three